

Item: ORD 08-18
Fiscal Impact: N/A
Funding Source: N/A
Account #: N/A
Budget Opening Required:

ISSUE:

Approve an Ordinance amending Section 16-6-103 of Title 16 of the West Valley City Municipal Code by adding a requirement for clear space around sprinkler risers.

SYNOPSIS:

It is recommended that language be included in the West Valley City Municipal Code to include a 36" clearance around sprinkler risers. This requirement will greatly improve emergency response time and the safety of the firefighters.

BACKGROUND:

Research indicates that there is currently no requirement for clear space around sprinkler risers in the National Fire Protection Association Code or the International Fire Code. To request and make changes to these codes can take many years. These codes require keeping a 36" clearance around electrical panels, water heaters, boilers and other equipment for fire department emergency access, but nothing for sprinkler risers.

Many businesses block access to the sprinkler riser by placing stock or equipment in front of and around the riser. Sometimes the entire riser is hidden from view. To access the sprinkler riser in these situations not only slows down emergency response, but also endangers our firefighters. In the past, we have asked the businesses to keep a 36" clearance around sprinkler risers as the authority having jurisdiction to get compliance. However, the problem has become one of our most common inspection violations and our office has been challenged by business owners and corporate safety persons since there are no written requirements in the International Fire Codes.

The requirements for a 36" clearance around equipment is provided so the fire department can access electrical panels and other equipment for emergency shutoff. Having this requirement for sprinkler risers is especially important after a fire or in the event of a broken sprinkler head or other accidental discharge of water in which the water supply must be shut off as quickly as possible, and the business owner relies on the fire department to perform that task. Adding a requirement for clear space around sprinkler risers in Title 16 of the West Valley Municipal Code will benefit the safety of the citizens and firefighters during an emergency.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve ordinance amending Section 16-6-103 of Title 16 of the West Valley City Municipal Code.

SUBMITTED BY:

Carl Andreason, Fire Inspector